

Monthly JET Newsletter

May 2006



Michigan faces tremendous challenges—and opportunities—in addressing the needs of low-income families and helping them become self-sufficient. With one million Michigan residents living in poverty and more than 78,000 families receiving cash assistance, a sizable population could benefit greatly from more opportunities in employment, education, and training.

The **Jobs, Education, and Training (JET)** program fundamentally changes the way the state helps families to become self-sufficient. Under this pilot approach, local workforce boards, Michigan Works! Agencies, and local DHS offices will implement a comprehensive approach to connecting Michigan families with the kinds of jobs, education, and training that can help them achieve self-sufficiency. Instead of “find a job - *any* job,” the message of JET is “let us help you qualify for, find and keep a job that will allow you to support your family *long-term*.” The 18-month pilots in four sites across the state will be thoroughly evaluated for cost-effectiveness. Pilots began rolling out in April 2006, with full implementation scheduled for July 2006.

Concurrently, the Michigan Works! Agencies and the departments of Human Services and Labor & Economic Growth are working in partnership to develop a statewide strategy to address new federal requirements for increased work participation rates for TANF recipients. Together, we are taking the necessary steps to make a difference in the lives of Michigan residents and setting the stage for increased economic prosperity in our state.

Marianne Udow, Director, Department of Human Services

Robert Swanson, Director, Department of Labor and Economic Growth

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

☛ *Each month, the JET Newsletter will highlight one policy area. For this month, the focus is on education and training.*

For the JET Pilots the **definition, duration, and scope** of allowable education and training activities have been significantly expanded:

- The requirement that a participant test the labor market before entering in education or training *has been removed*;
- Pilots are allowed to *expand and/or eliminate* strict time limits on education and training activities;
- The *range of allowable activities is broad*, including basic literacy, career/technical, on-the-job, and post-secondary education and basic skill development within degree course curricula; and
- *Individualized plans for education or training* need to address the local labor and economic development plans for the region, and meet individual needs, interests, and abilities.

DHS JET PILOT STAFF TRAINING

To meet identified short-and long-term training needs, the following is a schedule of DHS training taking place at the pilot sites. Please contact Bonnie Reno, Human Resources Developer/ Special Projects, if you have any questions (517-335-6062 or renob3@michigan.gov).

Phase I Training (Late April/ Early June 2006)

- Short-Term Family Support (STFS) Policies and Procedures
- Overall Intent of JET Pilots
- 3-Way Good Cause Determination

Phase II Training (Late June/ Early July 2006)

- Family Automated Screening Tool (FAST)
- Family Self-Sufficiency Plan (FSSP)
- Updating interviewing techniques

JET PILOTS ROLLOUT

APRIL/ MAY 2006

- ✦ JET case remains active for 180 Days after FIP closure
- ✦ STFS training developed and delivered
- ✦ JET uses standardized assessment tools (Work Keys etc.)
- ✦ Triage before sanction is applied (good cause/barrier identification meeting between FIS, JET worker and client)
- ✦ No compliance test required before reopening
- ✦ Identify long-term recipients (see countable months) and—DHS/MWA engage them
- ✦ Develop Interagency Agreements/MOU
- ✦ STFS piloted

JUNE

- ✦ JET readiness survey is completed by FIP applicants
- ✦ MWA/JET referral after FIP openings on CIMS

JULY

- ✦ 90-day sanction piloted
- ✦ Link to other initiatives (Homelessness, Ruby Payne, Fatherhood)
- ✦ Family Automated Screening Tool (FAST) is piloted (Automatic notice sent to clients at FIP case opening)
- ✦ Family Self-Sufficiency Plan (FSSP) required of mandatory as well as deferred FIP applicants/recipients. Non-compliance with FSSP sanctioned the same as non-compliance with work.
- ✦ Accomplish, where agreed to locally, co-location of FIS/JET staff

OCTOBER

- ✦ Increase earned income disregard

☛ Visit the JET website at www.michigan.gov/jet for all the latest information